

### **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 11-18 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for the amendments can be found, for instance, in the specification at [0041], [0044], [0045], [0048], [0069], and FIGS. 8-11, 13, and 14.

### **35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyamoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,129). These rejections are traversed as follows.

#### **Claims 1-4 and 13**

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest a stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by a maker of the product and comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and an environmental load information aggregation device, which receives designation of the product and aggregates environmental load information in life stages of the designated product, and performs processing for classifying retrieved pieces of

process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and processing for aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage.

Embodiments of the present invention introduce a management system of chemical substances used by a maker/manufacture of a product by using parts supplied by a plurality of suppliers. When the parts are provided to the maker, the maker also receives environmental information for manufacturing the product by using the parts. In general, not only one, but a plurality of makers order the parts from the supplier. The supplier is required to provide the environmental information of the parts for each maker. Further, since it is likely that each maker needs different types of information, the supplier has to sort out the information in order to figure out the information to match the needs of the makers and deliver the information to them (see [0005]).

The present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or

more basic processes to a particular life stage. The company (maker) also registers the basic processes (see [0048]). The stage definition information is defined as each maker assigns one or more basic processes to a life stage (see [0048] and FIGS. 8-11, and [0069] and FIGS. 13-14). FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage.

Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1, and claims 2-4 and 13 depending therefrom, are patentable over Miyamoto.

Claims 5, 6, and 14

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 5 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by a maker of the product and comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage, and classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby

the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or more basic processes to a particular life stage. FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage. Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 5, and claims 6 and 14 depending therefrom, are patentable over Miyamoto.

Claims 7, 8, and 15

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by a maker of the product and comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage, and classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or more basic processes to a particular life stage. FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage. Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 7, and claims 8 and 15 depending therefrom, are patentable over Miyamoto.

Claims 9, 10, and 16

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest a life stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage, and classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process

information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or more basic processes to a particular life stage. FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage. Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 9, and claims 10 and 16 depending therefrom, are patentable over Miyamoto.

#### Claims 11 and 17

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest stage definition information comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage, and classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece

of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or more basic processes to a particular life stage. FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage. Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 11 and claim 17 depending therefrom are patentable over Miyamoto.

#### Claims 12 and 18

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12 as amended is patentable over Miyamoto because, for instance, Miyamoto does not teach or suggest stage definition information, which comprises information on one or more basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage, and classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece

of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, the present invention reduces stages of the delivery procedure of the supplier and introduces a process whereby the maker sorts and selects the information provided by the supplier in order to arrange the information usable as the environmental information (see [0085]). More specifically, as stated in [0041], each company (user/maker) should define by itself which basic process is assigned to a life stage. In [0044], examples are given in which a specific company assigns one or more basic processes to a particular life stage. FIG. 8(B) shows different stage definition information for different makers who assign different basic processes to a life stage. Miyamoto fails to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 12 and claim 18 depending therefrom are patentable over Miyamoto.



**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

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